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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

DTIC FILE COPY

1a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION Unclassified			1b. RESTRICTIVE MARKINGS --		
2a. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY --			3. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY OF REPORT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.		
2b. 1					
4. PI AD-A226 331			5. MONITORING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER(S) -- AFOSR-TR- 90 0876		
6a. NAME OF PERFORMING ORGANIZATION The Regents of the Univ. of California, San Diego		6b. OFFICE SYMBOL (If applicable) --		7a. NAME OF MONITORING ORGANIZATION Air Force Office of Scientific Research/NL	
6c. ADDRESS (City, State, and ZIP Code) University of California, San Diego 9500 Gilman Drive La Jolla, CA 92093		7b. ADDRESS (City, State, and ZIP Code) Bldg. 410, Bolling Air Force Base D.C. 20332-6448			
8a. NAME OF FUNDING/SPONSORING ORGANIZATION AFOSR/NL		8b. OFFICE SYMBOL (If applicable) NL		9. PROCUREMENT INSTRUMENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER AFOSR 89-0456	
8c. ADDRESS (City, State, and ZIP Code) Bldg. 410 Bolling Air Force Base, D.C. 20332-6448		10. SOURCE OF FUNDING NUMBERS			
		PROGRAM ELEMENT NO. 61102F	PROJECT NO. 2313	TASK NO. A4	WORK UNIT ACCESSION NO. --
11. TITLE (Include Security Classification) Comparative Analytical Study of Evoked and Event Related Potentials as Correlates of Cognitive Processes					
12. PERSONAL AUTHOR(S) Bullock, Theodore H. and Basar, Erol					
13a. TYPE OF REPORT Final Technical		13b. TIME COVERED FROM 8/1/89 TO 7/31/90		14. DATE OF REPORT (Year, Month, Day) 90/07/16	
15. PAGE COUNT 1990					
16. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTATION					
17. COSATI CODES			18. SUBJECT TERMS (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number)		
FIELD	GROUP	SUB-GROUP	Electroencephalogram		
05	09	--	Event related potentials		
			Evoked potentials		
19. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number) This project is a collaboration between the two named laboratories, extending the capabilities of each group. It combines the analytical approach of multielectrode recording from many places in the brain with the comparative approach of seeking clues from lower animal species. Using selected paradigms of stimulus presentation or omission already known to trigger Event Related Potentials (ERPs) in humans, as well as mental events, this program compares brain recording from cats, reptiles, fish and other lower models, analyzing both single trials and averages from many channels. Sacrificing the advantage of human subjects easy to instruct and to control with respect to attention, we can go farther in number of intracranial electrodes in deep cerebral and brainstem loci. Early results show that lower species have ERPs by the definition of the stimulus regime and that much of this response occurs at lower brain levels, probably precognitive, suggesting the need to distinguish the components in humans that depend on cognition from those that do not. New forms of grading the expectation of stimuli are being compared on humans, cats, and lower species.					
20. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY OF ABSTRACT <input type="checkbox"/> UNCLASSIFIED/UNLIMITED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SAME AS RPT. <input type="checkbox"/> DTIC USERS			21. ABSTRACT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION Unclassified		
22a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL Alfred R. Fregly			22b. TELEPHONE (Include Area Code) (202) 767-5021		22c. OFFICE SYMBOL NL

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24 JUL 1990

2 JUL 1990



**FINAL SCIENTIFIC REPORT
ON RESEARCH PROJECT CONDUCTED UNDER AFOSR GRANT**

AFOSR-89-0456, BSC

**"Comparative Analytical Study of Evoked and Event Related Potentials
as Correlates of Cognitive Processes"**

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Abstract

This project is a collaboration between the two named laboratories, extending the capabilities of each group. It combines the analytical approach of multielectrode recording from many places in the brain with the comparative approach of seeking clues from lower animal species. Using selected paradigms of stimulus presentation or omission already known to trigger Event Related Potentials (ERPs) in humans, as well as mental events, this program compares brain recording from cats, reptiles, fish and other lower models, analyzing both single trials and averages from many channels. Sacrificing the advantage of human subjects easy to instruct and to control with respect to attention, we can go farther in number of intracranial electrodes in deep cerebral and brainstem loci. Early results show that lower species have ERPs by the definition of the stimulus regime and that much of this response occurs at lower brain levels, probably precognitive, suggesting the need to distinguish the components in humans that depend on cognition from those that do not. New forms of grading the expectation of stimuli are being compared on humans, cats, and lower species.

Introduction and Rationale

Little is known about the basic mechanisms of Evoked Potentials (EPs) and Event Related Potentials (ERPs) - known to be useful objective signs of signal processing and cognitive events in the brain, especially their distribution in the brain, relation to ongoing EEG, dependence on cognition, and uniquely human attributes (Başar 1988; Başar and Bullock 1989 and extensive literature referenced in the original proposal, dated April 7, 1989). In view of the unexpected character of the evolution of ongoing compound field potentials (micro-EEG) of the brain, especially the cortex (Bullock and Başar 1988; Bullock 1988a), and of the comparative neurology of expectation (Bullock 1988b), it appears likely that new insights could be gained by examining whatever signs can be found during administration to lower animal models of the applicable stimulus regimes from among those that have been used on human subjects. Initial results from experiments on rays and teleosts have been reported (Bullock et al. 1990).

Plan of the Collaboration

The present project was planned to take advantage of the mutual interest and complementary facilities of the two PIs named in the heading. Başar and Bullock can collaborate to some extent by mail, telephone and fax - and have done so extensively in the past. However, this does not realize the potential of the collaboration because each laboratory is the best place to do certain experiments and analyses.

Research Conducted

The plan outlined in the proposal had to be curtailed in time. Bullock had to cancel his trip scheduled for September-October, 1989 at the last minute because of his wife's health and the next opportunity to spend time in Lübeck came in May, 1990, for only 10 days.

After extensive collaboration by mail and wire, a very intensive working period was spent in the laboratories of Başar in Lübeck between May 2nd and 13th. The experiments had been carefully planned, many preparations had been made, everything was ready and worked smoothly, a large part of the staff of the laboratory was involved. This included, in addition to the two P.I.s, Dr. Canan Başar, Dr. Tamer Demiralp, Dr. Martin Schürmann, Dr. Elke Rahn, the engineer Ferdinand Greischutz, and the technician.

Among the significant accomplishments were protracted discussion of old data, examination and evaluation of new data, recently gathered by each of the scientists named above, and discussion of important priorities for future research. A new book on a currently hot topic, "Induced Rhythms in the Brain", to be co-edited by the two P.I.s was outlined in detail and some 20 authors of contributed chapters were recruited by telephone, all agreeing to submit their chapters by the end of August, 1990, just 3 1/2 months away. A publisher was selected and has agreed to take on the project.

Experiments were carried out all day every day, about equally divided between those upon trained human subjects (the above named postdoctoral associates) and those upon cats previously surgically implanted with an array of electrodes in the strategic parts of the brain, by Dr. Canan Başar. As a result many tens of megabytes of data are now stored in the computer. The continuous ink records have been scrutinized and those epochs with eye blinks and similar bad places selected out. Many dozens of graphs have been computed, and plotted, in color, both as average potential at each electrode, before and after the target time and as transfer functions of the first derivatives in the chosen band for the period after the target. Tapes of data and printouts of plots and graphs have been exchanged since Bullock returned from the period in Lübeck, and new analyses and plots have been specified to be done on the stored data.

The experiments and the data gathering, for which the agenda-protocol is attached, explaining the exact design of each experiment, went smoothly and in that sense were successful. Not all eight experiments were accomplished in full but major portions of each of them. The analysis and evaluation is now in progress and will continue for some time.

Preliminary analysis suggests that a paper might be in order reporting on the Event Related Potentials to Omitted Stimuli at different interstimulus intervals (ISIs, 1/flash rates) and degrees of regularity in the cat (passive paradigm) and human (active and passive paradigms). However, if such a publication in a primary journal is determined to be advisable, it will require substantially more data (additional experiments), both to increase the number of instances (subjects and days, with more numerous and shorter recording sessions) and to extend the range of tests to shorter ISIs, to lower probability of targets. Also desirable will be a series of similar experiments with acoustic stimuli.

In the experience of the U.S. partner, the facilities, experience and team available in Lübeck make it uniquely efficient as a place to get such results, both on the human subjects and on cats, which from practical considerations he cannot now study in his own laboratory.

Principal Findings

The principal findings of the experiments during this intensive visit may be summarized as follows. (i) The Event Related Potential (ERP) following a missing stimulus in a regular series has close to the same latency after the omitted stimulus was due, when the conditioning series had different InterStimulus Intervals (ISIs), reinforcing the supposition that the ERP is time-locked to a learned expectation. (ii) The ERP is larger and briefer for more accurately predicted expectations, both those due to regular conditioning series at shorter ISIs and those due to irregular ISIs, jittered around a mean value. (iii) The ERP is much smaller, merging into insignificance, without attention - confirming previous studies. The first two of these findings are probably new for human subjects.

Attached Appendices

The following attachments provide detail on three aspects of the results mentioned above. (i) The agenda-protocol, dated 05-03-90, for the experiments just conducted. (ii) Sample plots of three experiments on one human subject (Figure 1), with a legend that details the experimental conditions as well as the significant questions posed and answered by those examples. (iii) A list of authors of chapters for the book "Induced Rhythms of the Brain" now in preparation by these authors, to be edited and integrated by the PIs of the present grant.

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Theodore H. Bullock

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July 17, 1990

PROPOSED PROTOCOL FOR CAT OSP EXPERIMENTS

- Recording at cortical, hippocampal, reticular, tectal and inferior colliculus sites.
- Band-width 0.3-100 Hz.
- Stimulate with flash trains of duration = D, flash frequency = F, rest period = R, number of trials = N.
- Triggers for averaging on first flash and on last flash. Save specified pretrigger time and posttrigger time - normally store 1 s before and 1.5 s after trigger = 2.5 s total, per trial.
- Reject bad epochs (large deflections).
- Subject awake, resting quietly.
- Flash and room light parameters to be tested and selected to give not quite maximal (saturated) VEP in both tectum and visual cortex.

Exp. 1: Standard experiment. D=10s; F=5 Hz; R=10s; N=30

Exp. 2: Short duration tests. Same as Exp. 1, but D=1s; 3s.

Exp. 3: Mid-frequency series. Same as Exp. 1, but F = 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7.5, 10 Hz, plus steady light (or >100 Hz).

Exp. 4: Low frequency tests. If 1 Hz gave a detectable OSP, F=0.5, 0.3 Hz.

Exp. 5: High jitter experiment. Same as Exp. 1, mean interval = 200 ms, but intervals are jittered from 100 - 300 ms, pseudo-randomly so that mean = 200; the last interval = 200 ms; successive trials are congruent = exact sequence of intervals is repeated.

Exp. 6: Low jitter experiment. Same as Exp. 5 but jitter from 150-250 ms.

Exp. 7: High frequency series. Same as Exp. 1 but F = 15, 20, 25, 30 Hz Repeat only 4 times (N = 4), since these are not to be averaged but printed as single sweeps, closely spaced, under each other, with hidden line suppression. This experiment is desirable if a VEP is visible in any electrode, on single sweeps. It is to examine the UFF = Upper Following Frequency - the highest frequency permitting 1:1 following; this does not allow averaging since that could fill in missing cycles on successive sweeps. Hence, it requires VEPs well visible on every sweep.

Exp. 8: Human series. Do as much as possible of Exps. 1-6 with human scalp recording. Exp. 7 is desirable if VEP is visible on single sweeps.

Human: vertex, parietal and occipital electrodes

Regular light flash: ISI = 3s

Omitted every 4th-7th = abscissa zero

Two superimposed averages: 26 good sweeps each

Regular light flash: ISI = 2s

Irregular ISI: mean 2s; jittered 1.5-3s

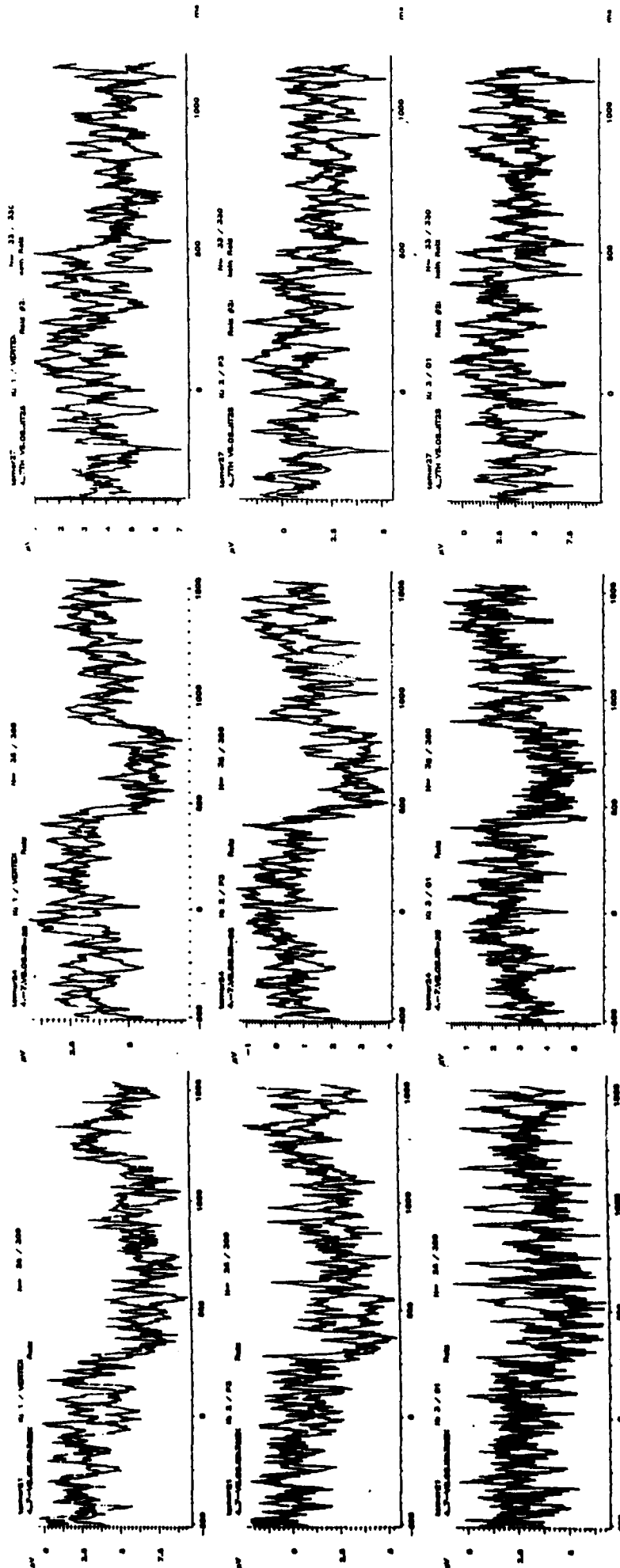


Figure 1. An experiment on human Event Related Potentials time-locked to expected but omitted stimuli. The expectation is manipulated by (1) changing the interstimulus interval (ISI) from 3 s to 2 s, and (2) by changing the regularity of the ISI from regular to jittered.

(1) If the ERP is a sign of expectation time-locked to the prediction of a stimulus, it should remain at the same latency after the omitted stimulus was due. Note the positive deflection is within ca. 100 ms equal but slightly later as well as sharper for 2 s than for 3 s.

(2) If the ERP is a sign of expectation time-locked to the prediction of a stimulus, it should suffer some delay and uncertainty of timing, presumably therefore attenuation of the average, when the ISI is jittered. Note the results also conform to this anticipation.

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